

Serial No. 09/990,929
Amdt. dated June 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2005

Attorney Docket No. PN01019AA/10-32

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of independently managing membership for a group and mobility for members of that group in a communications system, the method including the steps of:

setting up, in a registrar, a group name and a membership for that group including a plurality of names, each of said plurality of names indicative of a user within that group; and
establishing, separately from said membership, contact information associated with each of said plurality of names; and
allowing a change to said contact information without a corresponding change to said membership information.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of setting up said a group name and establishing said contact information is compatible with a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of setting up said membership including said plurality of names further includes using a name indicative of said user that points to a second registrar where a contact for said user may be found and wherein said second register is one of a Session Initiation Protocol registrar and a Home Location Register

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said step of using said a name further includes using an alias for said user.

5. (Canceled)

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6. (Currently Amended) A method of using a call initiation protocol for initiating a session with members of a group, the method including the steps of:

contacting a first registrar with a request for a session, said first registrar including a plurality of names, each of said names indicative of a member of said group and a second registrar associated with said each of said names;

forwarding said request for said a session to said second register associated with said each of said names, said second registrar including a contact for said member, said contact indicative of a location associated with said member; and

forwarding said request for said a session to said location associated with said member.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said each of said names indicates said member and a registrar responsible for maintaining said contact for said member according to a session initiation protocol (SIP).

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said request for said a session is an INVITE message defined according to SIP.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further including a step of forwarding said request for said a session to an intervening registrar defined by an alias name for one of said each of said names indicative of said member and thereafter forwarding said request for said session to said second registrar.

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10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein a change in said location associated with said member does not necessitate a corresponding change in said name associated with said member, whereby said member can change said location without necessitating a corresponding change to said plurality of names.

11. through 20. (Canceled)